



FIRST THINGS FIRST

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August 9, 2011

Chairman Steve Lynn and Members of the Board
First Things First
4000 N Central Ave, Suite 800
Phoenix, AZ 85012

Dear Chairman Lynn and Members of the Board:

On behalf of the Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council, I am requesting consideration and approval of a modification to the 2012 Fiscal Year Funding Plan. The modification is described below.

New Strategy:

On August 9, 2011 the Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council approved a new Pre-Kindergarten Scholarship strategy, with a total allotment of \$594,000 to enter into an agreement with the Arizona Department of Education.

Funding of this strategy eliminates barriers that currently limit or prevent access to quality child care and education across the Navajo Nation. These barriers include a lack of private early child care and education centers, extended waiting lists and a lack of accessible child care to families living in remote communities on the Nation. Funding of this strategy will increase access to high quality early education, which will better prepare children entering kindergarten.

The Regional Council is confident that the proposed amendment to the SFY2012 Funding Plan will provide additional services to children and families in the region, as well as supporting and aligning with the First Things First priorities. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Vikki Shirley, Chair